

Rule 9071-1. Settlements in Cases with Pro Se Debtor Defendants.

(A) Settlement Stipulations. Any stipulation filed to settle an adversary proceeding with a pro se debtor defendant must be accompanied by the Local Form “Notice of Hearing”.

(B) Hearings on Settlements. Settlements of adversary proceedings with pro se debtors will be approved only if the court finds:

- (1)** if the nature of the complaint is to determine dischargeability of a debt, that there is a justiciable issue as to the nondischargeability of the creditor’s claim;
- (2)** that the agreement represents a fully informed and voluntary agreement of the debtor;
- (3)** that the agreement does not impose undue hardship on the debtor or dependent of the debtor; and
- (4)** that the settlement is in the best interest of the debtor.

(C) Referral of Pro Se Debtor Defendant to Pro Bono Representation. In those cases where it appears that there is reasonable doubt as to the validity of the creditor’s claim, the court will refer the debtor to the pro bono committee of the Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida for the purpose of obtaining pro bono representation in a trial of the adversary case.